

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 IO-13

USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 L-03 H-01 DHA-02 EA-07 /080 W

-----123135 121517Z /45

P 081430Z AUG 77 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4566

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W

ROME FOR FODAG

BRUSSELS FOR EEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID GA

SUBJECT: GOTG EMERGENCY FOOD REQUEST

REF: A) BANJUL 0943, B) BANJUL 0964, C) DAKAR 5191

1. ON BASIS EXCELLENT AND THOROUGH ANALYSIS GAMBIAN FOOD SITUATION PREPARED BY FFP/DAKAR (REF C), EMBASSY RECOMMENDS US ASSISTANCE BE EXTENDED WITHIN OVERALL FIGURE 3500 TONS WORKED OUT BY WFP REP AND OTHERS DURING RECENT ASSESSMENT EXERCISE CONDUCTED HERE BY POTENTIAL DONORS. WE SUGGEST COORDINATED APPROACH BY FFP, EEC, AND WFP, WHICH COULD

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PERHAPS BE ARRANGED BY AID REP IN ROME. THIS WE BELIEVE NECESSARY AS UNDP SUBMITTED SIMILAR REQUEST TO FAO/ROME JULY 26 RECOMMENDING SAME APPROACH. US SHOULD CONSIDER DONATION IN 1-2000 TON RANGE, WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT TOTAL FROM ALL DONORS SHOULD EQUAL AT LEAST 3500 TONS.

2. SUPPORTING ANALYSIS REF C, WE WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO

SEVERAL OTHER FACTORS CONCERNING FOOD SITUATION:

A) ALTHOUGH GPMB HAS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLY OF RICE IN STORAGE, AFFECTED FARMERS HAVE NO MONEY TO BUY AT PRESENT, AND CREDIT EXTENDED BY COOPERATIVES IS SLOWLY SHIFTING FROM SUBSISTANCE TO PRODUCTION LOANS.

B) RAINS THIS YEAR ARE LATE AND POORLY SPACED. CHIEF AGRICULTURAL OFFICER, NORTH BANK DIVISION, TOLD CHARGE JULY 27 NYAT 30-40 PER CENT OF GROUNDNUTS SOWN THIS DIVISION HAD FAILED TO GERMINATE FOR LACK OF ADEQUATE RAIN. STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY GOTG SHOW THAT AS OF JULY 31, TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED COUNTRY-WIDE WAS ONLY ONE HALF THAT OF NORMAL YEARS AND EVEN LESS THAN 1976 WHICH HAD LOW RAINFALL. GAMBIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT MAJOR CROP FAILURES WILL OCCUR THIS YEAR. FARMERS SEEKING CREDIT TO EAT NOW WILL BE EVEN WORSE OFF SHOULD THEIR 1977 CROPS FAIL.

C) REPORTS ARE COMING IN TO AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN BANJUL INDICATING THAT INSECT PESTS ARE BECOMING WORSE PROBLEM THAN NORMAL BECAUSE OF IRREGULAR RAIN CONDITIONS.

3. CHARGE SPOKE AGAIN WITH VICE PRESIDENT AUGUST 3 TO EXPLAIN PROGRESS ON GAMBIAN REQUEST. N'JIE REEMPHASIZED URGENT NEED FOR TIMELY RESPONSE. PRESIDENT JAWARA IS PRESENTLY ON UP-COUNTRY TRIP WHICH WILL GIVE HIM OPPORTUNITY TO PERSONALLY ASSESS GRAVITY OF SITUATION. PARA 4 REF C PROVIDES CLEAR PICTURE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS GAMBIA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CURRENT FOOD DEFICIT.

4. CHINESE ARE SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED TO HAVE DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH UNDP, AND HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL RESPOND AS IN PAST. EEC AND WFP WILL PROBABLY GIVE POSITIVE RESPONSE. NEGATIVE REACTION FROM US WOULD GREATLY DISAPPOINT THIS SMALL DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY WHICH HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED US TO BE GOOD FRIEND.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RAPID CONSIDERATION THIS URGENT REQUEST, AS DONATED FOOD MUST REACH HERE WITHIN NEXT 3 TO 4 WEEKS IF IT IS TO HAVE DESIRED EFFECT. NEW HARVEST SHOULD BEGIN BY MID TO LATE OCTOBER, BUT IT MAY BE RETARDED BECAUSE OF RAIN SITUATION.

WYGANT

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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